

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computerized method of recruiting and credentialing a network of specialized experts and storing this information for electronic consultations to be used by clients comprising:
  - a) providing a secure and limited access to a client by the use of a networked computer system;
  - b) displaying selected information to the client;
  - c) providing means to select a specialized expert in response to an inquiry, search or other request being made by the client;
  - d) receiving and processing a request from a client and displaying said information about a selected expert to the client;
  - e) accessing the profile of the selected expert;
  - f) providing specific inquiries to the client, said specific inquiries generated by the selected expert;
  - g) assisting the client in automatically capturing and uploading information, from a data base, in a format that will allow the server to encrypt and secure the information for transmission to the designated expert;
  - h) interfacing with the clients own systems to extract any available background or demographic information to most efficiently capture previously-stored information to minimize re-entering the information or creating data entry or transcription errors;
  - i) retrieving any additional information previously stored for the client to appropriately confirm the identity of the client to the server and insure the

security and integrity of the information to be transmitted;

j) generating a request to the designated expert to obtain the specialized expertise required for the clients specific needs; and

k) tracking and fulfilling the generated request to complete the desired referral, said referral is obtained from a leading expert without the person needing to physically travel to a distant location or maintain an expensive, rare, with limited access or availability or otherwise infrequently used expertise within their local area.

2. The computerized method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said networked computer system is connected to a central telemedicine data base.
3. The computerized method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said data base is selected from the group consisting of the world wide web, email, gopher, specialty physician referral, specialty hospital referral, patient medical record referral, current file, archival file, and client/payor.
4. The computerized method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said server accesses said data bases.
5. The computerized method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said clients are selected from the group consisting of HMOs, PPOs, POS plans, TPAs, self-insured employers, patients, physicians, indemnity insurance carriers, and payors.
6. The computerized method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said format further includes a graphical user interface.
7. The computerized method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said graphical user

interface provides items selected from the group consisting of user data requests, displaying client information, data entry forms, local validation of data, user information, demographics, scanned images, digital data, chart information, cost data, outcome measures, billing data, specialty/expertise data, location data, current data, special services data, and archival data.

8. The computerized method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said server notifies the designated specialist by means selected from the group consisting of e-mail, pager, fax, and palm pilot.